

Present: Chair James Plath, Robert Prall, Peter McDowell, Brian Sullivan, Ted Dumas and William Crowell. Also present BOS Jane Otis, Paul McCormick, Charlie Crowell, Town Administrator Robert Canevazzi, Assistant Town Administrator Sandra Fife, Accountant MaryAnne Gibbs and Recorder Peggie Hunter.

Absent: Michael Brennan

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair James Plath said he did attend the School Department meeting on Monday, February 13, 2006 when they adopted the budget. They are looking at an override that will be difficult to sell this year because of other override questions in Town. The Department will receive an additional \$500,000.00 in state aid. If in the instance there is no school budget by 12/1, the Chapter 70 formula would kick in and the system wouldn't be able to run two weeks on the amount that Dennis receives.

Peter McDowell said that 17 cents on the dollar is local aid and that we don't contribute our 83 cents portion unless it is voted.

Natural Resources-171

George Macdonald, Department Head said that on March 9, 2006 there will be a meeting regarding the capital budget for the Bridge Street project and that on Thursday, February 16, 2006 at 10AM, there will be an open meeting at Town Hall on the Bridge Street project.

Mr. Macdonald then went on to discuss his budget. Not reflected is an increase in hours from 30 to 35 for Office Assistant Maryanne Hersey. Ms. Hersey should have been full-time a long time ago. Natural Resources has budgeted \$3909.00 for Ms. Hersey and Shellfish has budgeted \$977.00 for Ms. Hersey's increase in hours.

Additional gross overtime was increased to \$18,000.00 due to number of call outs related to the rabies issue. More often than not, these calls are distemper, which is not a threat to humans, but they still need to all be checked out in case one is related to rabies.

Repairs and Maintenance, 52400, was increased to \$4000.00 for two reasons: one is due to road repairs to the road leading into Crowe's Pasteur which is in unsatisfactory condition and two, due to the recent acquisition of the Welch Property, the Town needs to construct a footbridge over the marsh. This will result in a beautiful nature walk.

William Crowell asked if the increase in overtime was year-round and Mr. Macdonald said that it is year-round. Mr. Crowell also asked if this \$18,000.00 amount included other items and Mr. Macdonald said that yes it includes estuaries, overtime for the secretary for meeting recording, a fill-in for summer night patrol for Crowe's Pasteur and Chapin which occurs approximately ½ dozen times during the summer.

Peter McDowell asked if we would be against the law for the Animal Control Officer to deal with this rabies issue. Mr. Macdonald said that the working relationship between Natural Resources and the Animal Control Officer is a good one and that the Animal Control Officer deals with domestic animals and the Natural Resource Department deals with wild animals. Mr. McDowell said that the Town has a van and equipment that deals exclusively with animals. Mr. MacDonald said it is a policy issue and said that the policy makers give him the direction. These calls can be burdensome and are often after hours. Town Administrator Robert Canevazzi added that the Police Department said that it is extremely costly to utilize the manpower of the Police Department to deal with these calls.

Jane Otis asked if CPA funds could be used for the Crowe's Pasteur repairs, as it is available for conservation, housing and historic. Mr. MacDonald said he is working on a grant for the footbridge and hopes to get Americorps to work on the project.

William Crowell felt more comfortable appropriating \$16,000.00 rather than the \$18,000.00 for this gross overtime line item. Mr. Macdonald said that this overtime is a recent line item and that he used to answer the calls himself.

Peter McDowell would like some clarification between the cross over duties of Animal Control and Natural Resources. Jane Otis said this would be a good item for an upcoming Department Head Meeting agenda.

Brian Sullivan said that overtime is overtime, whether it is through the Animal Control Department or Natural Resources.

Chair James Plath said that a possibility would be to put money in for Crowe's Pasteur road repairs and then go before Town Meeting for additional funds for the bridge. Mr. Plath also said that he is inclined to agree with Mr. Crowell's reduction of the \$18,000.00 to \$16,000.00. Mr. Macdonald said that he would like to leave his budget as is. If Americorps builds the bridge, it will be just materials. Ted Dumas asked if Americorps is a year-round organization and Mr. Macdonald said that they do work year-round. Mr. Dumas also said that Cape Cod Tech wouldn't be able to do anything until the fall, and that their labor is free and the Town would provide all the materials.

Mr. Macdonald reported that the balance of his budget was level funded.

MOTION:

Peter McDowell moved and William Crowell seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0:
Committee voted to leave all recommended numbers as is, with the exception of 51300 for \$18,000.00 which should be reduced to \$16,000.00 and 52400 be increased from \$4000.00 to \$6000.00 and that the total Natural Resources budget for FY '07 be for the amount of \$228,122.00.

Shellfish-296

George Macdonald presented budget. The full time status of Maryanne Hersey would add \$977.00 to the salaries budget. Everything else is close to level funded. Mr. Macdonald requested \$1000.00 for line item 55800 for Unclassified Supplies. Mr. Macdonald puts this amount in every year, and the BOS takes it out. Mr. Macdonald referred to several locations that need work including the newly constructed Sea Street culvert, which might need stabilization. Repairs at the various locations were then discussed. The only other budget change Mr. Macdonald reported is for \$200.00 mileage for deputies, plover monitors and Americorps volunteers.

MOTION:

Robert Prall moved and William Crowell seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0:
Committee voted tentative approval of the Shellfish budget 100296 for the amount of \$72, 425.00.

Harbormaster-295

Harbormaster Ed Tierney came before the Committee to present the Department's budget. Peter McDowell asked Mr. Tierney about the debris in the back of the parking lot. Mr. Tierney said that he has a request into DPW to some tree work and that it is on the DPW docket to get done by spring.

Peter McDowell asked about lost revenues from this debris. Mr. Tierney said that area is also used for storage. Mr. McDowell asked about the amount of revenue per day for a vehicle and trailer and Mr. Tierney said \$10.00 per day. Mr. McDowell then asked about the Harbormaster's evening boat patrols and Mr. Tierney said that this is done partly to account for the transients that are out. Mr. Tierney said that the Harbormaster's role has been changing and in addition to running the harbor and moorings, there are first responder duties, law enforcement and search and rescue.

Chair James Plath asked if revenues were up to where they should be and Mr. Tierney answered that revenues were up roughly \$20,000.00.

Mr. Plath wanted to know if there were any issues for the Finance Committee or any warrant articles that Mr. Tierney needed to discuss. Mr. Tierney then discussed the two boat ramps on Bass River need some replacement pilings. Mr. Tierney said that they are looking to do this work now, as it would be easier and less expensive.

Robert Prall said that the boat ramp needs to be repaired at Bass River. Mr. Tierney said he has been involved with the Bass River Park Use Committee and that the Cape Cod Commission has lifted the ban on motorized vessels at this area. Mr. Tierney said that if it were going to be an open park, the Town wouldn't want to look at putting boat parking and trailers there.

William Crowell asked how many vehicles the Department has and Mr. Tierney answered one, a 1996 Chevy flat bed.

MOTION:

William Crowell moved and Ted Dumas seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0:
Committee voted to tentatively approve 100295 for the amount of \$200,333.00.

Recreation-630

Dustin Pineau presented the budget. Line item 51200 for \$15,000.00 will not change until decisions have been made at Sea View Playland. This amount was in last year's budget. Chair Plath asked what has Town done recreation wise at Sea View. Dustin Pineau responded that the Town has been keeping the grass mowed and that most of the money put into the property has been for sprinklers and fertilizers. Dustin said we are presently still maintaining the property. Jane Otis said that she doesn't think that the sprinklers work and wondered if there was even any electricity there. Ms. Otis mentioned that the weeds are also overgrown. Chair Plath asked what's been done there and Mr. Pineau responded that he will speak to Golf Department Head Dennis Penner. Chair Plath said the Town shouldn't put another dime into the property until the Committee comes forward with their recommendations. William Crowell said the \$15,000.00 should be eliminated from the budget.

MOTION:

Peter McDowell moved and Brian Sullivan seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0:
Committee voted to approve all numbers in budget except for line item 51200, 2-1 Maintenance that \$15,000.00 be changed to 0 and to recommend a budget total in the amount of \$101, 275.00.

Beaches-635

Dustin Pineau discussed the Beach Department budget. Mr. Pineau discussed line item 51100, which deals with the union contract and cost of living; line item 51200, where there will be seasonal salary increases across the board, and line item 51410, where there will be a small increase for longevity. There is also an increase in electricity due to an NSTAR increase. The bulkhead repair at West Dennis Beach will cost \$8000.00.

Ted Dumas asked how many systems are pumped out. Mr. Pineau responded seven in total are covered under this contract. Mr. Pineau said the system is usually pumped in mid-July. Mr. Pineau said that there is money in the small capital budget for septic inspection purposes not covered by the contract. Assistant Town Administrator Sandra Fife said that there is not a line item for this purpose in the small capital budget. Mr. Dumas suggested pumping systems in fall for maximum benefit. Septic inspection may need to be put out to bid as they will cost anywhere from \$300.00-\$400.00 per inspection.

Mr. Pineau then detailed the seasonal salary increases. Mr. Pineau said that a supervisor opens and closes the bathhouses and volunteers are also utilized for this purpose, so there are no additional hours under salaries for this purpose.

When asked about cellular service for staff, Mr. Pineau said that Nextel and two-way radios are used for communications.

MOTION:

Robert Prall moved and Ted Dumas seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0:
Committee voted to approve Beach Department budget 100635 in the amount of \$626, 268.00.

Historic-692

Building Department Director Brian Florence said he needed to include overtime for a secretary to do minutes.

MOTION:

Ted Dumas moved and Peter McDowell seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0:
Committee voted to approve the South Dennis Historic budget 100692 in the amount of \$10,356.40.

Old King's Highway Regional Historic District-693
Building Department Head Brian Florence presented this budget.

MOTION:

Brian Sullivan moved and Ted Dumas seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0:
Committee voted to approve the OKHRHD budget in the amount of \$26, 26, 051.00.

Building Inspector-241

Building Department Head Brian Florence presented this budget. Mr. Florence said that there is a request to upgrade Linda McNeill's position to a Grade 10 to office manager.

MOTION:

Robert Prall moved and Ted Dumas seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0:
Committee voted to approve Building Inspector's budget 100241 in the amount of \$214, 660.00

Plumbing Inspector-243

Building Department Head Brian Florence presented this budget. Mr. Florence explained that the additional call backs occur when there is a gas lead or a carbon dioxide lead and that the Fire Inspector is called in as well. The Fire Department calls Brian Florence directly, as it is a public safety issue. There is a four-hour minimum on-call duty. It was asked what was spent the previous year and Mr. Florence said nothing was paid the year before, even though it was compulsory, the four hour minimum was not a requirement. Chair Plath said he felt a lot more comfortable with line item 51300 being reduced to \$1000.00. It was suggested that tracking take place for future callbacks.

MOTION:

William Crowell moved and Ted Dumas seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0:
Committee voted reduce line item 51300 from \$1200.00 to \$1000.00 bringing and approved the Plumbing Inspector Budget, 100243 for the amount of \$53,923.00.

Peter McDowell stated that with this reduction, a transfer would be forthcoming if needed.

Electrical-245

Building Department Head Brian Florence presented this budget. Line item 51300, callback for Electrical Inspector was increased from \$500.00 to \$1200.00. Mr. Florence also requested an additional vehicle. Town Administrator Robert Canevazzi said that this vehicle would be one of the former police cruisers.

MOTION:

Peter McDowell moved and Brian Sullivan seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0:
Committee voted approval of Electrical Budget 100245 for the amount of \$36,935.00.

Historic Commission-691

MOTION:

William Crowell moved and Ted Dumas seconded and the Committee voted 6-0-0:
Committee voted approval of Historic Commission budget, 100691 for the amount of \$1936.00.

Minutes-January 3, 2006

MOTION:

William Crowell moved and Brian Sullivan seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0:
Committee voted to accept the Finance Committee Minutes of January 3, 2006.

Minutes-February 2, 2006

On page four, Robert Prall's name was spelled incorrectly.

MOTION:

Brian Sullivan moved and Robert Prall seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0:
Committee voted to accept the Finance Committee Minutes of February 2, 2006 with the correction made to Robert Prall's name.

Chair James Plath asked about the Community Policing Grants. Assistant Town Administrator Sandra Fife said that they are proposing to include these grants in an outside section under local aid. Town Accountant MaryAnne Gibbs said that this

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Large Hearing Room, Dennis Town Hall
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Approved

grant money is posted through the departments. There is also some housing assistance money in the outside section of the budget that will be investigated.

MOTION:

Ted Dumas moved and Peter McDowell seconded and Committee voted 6-0-0:

Committee voted to adjourn at 8:51PM.